

# 192nd Wing earns Air Force Meritorious Unit Award

The Virginia Air National Guard's 192nd Wing has earned the Air Force Meritorious Unit Award, according to an announcement made Nov. 28, 2018, by Col. Frank J. Lobash, 192nd Wing commander. This is the first time the wing as a whole has received this award, which was first authorized by the Secretary of the Air Force in March 2004. The 192nd Intelligence Squadron received the award in 2015.

The MUA is awarded to Air Force active duty, Reserve and Guard units for exceptionally meritorious conduct in the performance of outstanding achievement or service in direct support of combat operations.

"Our wing's recognition as an Air Force Meritorious Unit is historic and relevant," Lobash said. "Our Airmen, across multi-domain missions, have positively impacted national defense and domestic operations at an unprecedented level while maintaining the balance of being citizen Airmen."

The period of the award was June 1, 2017, through May 31, 2018. During that time, VaANG units supported Operation Inherent Resolve.

Read more: <http://vanguard.dodlive.mil/2018/11/28/12353/>



The Virginia Air National Guard's 192nd Wing will receive the Air Force Meritorious Unit award in recognition of their direct support of combat operations.

## Virginia National Guard News Headlines

### 34th CST trains with VSP, supports Bush funeral

The 34th Civil Support Team continues to balance multi-agency training and real-world support missions after an exercise with the Virginia State Police in early November at Fort Pickett, Virginia, and supporting the state funeral of President George H.W. Bush Dec. 5, 2018, in Washington, D.C.

Read more: <http://vanguard.dodlive.mil/2018/12/08/12357/>

### 329th RSG conducts training to rapidly mobilize Soldiers

Soldiers assigned to the Virginia National Guard's Virginia Beach-based 329th Regional Support Group, conducted reception and mission command exercises Nov. 25 – Dec. 9, 2018, at Fort Stewart, Georgia.

Read more: <http://vanguard.dodlive.mil/2018/12/12/12360/>

### 1940 Mobilization roster is jewel of Virginia National Guard's historic archives

When he's asked what is the Virginia National Guard's most prized historic artifact, command historian Al Barnes' answer may illicit some surprise. It's not a weapon or a uniform, and it's not patch or a photo.

Read more: <http://vanguard.dodlive.mil/2018/12/07/12339/>

### VNG special response force selected to test new communications suite

Soldiers and Airmen assigned to the 34th CERFP have been selected to test a new communications suite being issued to the National Guard CBRN Response Enterprise beginning in 2019.

Read more: <http://vanguard.dodlive.mil/2018/12/07/12334/>

## Join the Virginia Army National Guard, Virginia Air National Guard or the Virginia Defense Force

For information about joining the Virginia Army National Guard, the Virginia Air National Guard or Virginia Defense Force, visit the appropriate link below:

### Va. Army National Guard

<http://nationalguard.com/va>

### Va. Air National Guard

<https://www.192fw.ang.af.mil/join>

### Va. Defense Force

<http://vdf.virginia.gov/joinvdf/>

# Field artillery Soldiers gather for St. Barbara's Day

Virginia National Guard field artillery Soldiers past and present gathered for fellowship and recognition of outstanding duty performance at the annual Saint Barbara's Day Celebration and Regimental Muster hosted by 1st Battalion, 111th Field Artillery Regiment, 116th Infantry Brigade Combat Team Dec. 8, 2018, in Williamsburg, Virginia. Six Soldiers received the Honorary Order of Saint Barbara and one received the Ancient Order of Saint Barbara.

"Saint Barbara became the patron saint for those in danger from thunderstorms, fires and sudden death," said Lt. Col. Shawn Talmadge, commander of battalion. "Due to the unreliability of artillery equipment in the early years, our artillerymen sought Saint Barbara's protection from unexpected explosion and death. It is an honor to host this celebration. I enjoy seeing Virginia's artillery community come together to share stories and enjoy the camaraderie."

The night's ceremony and festivities began with the appointment of the 111th Field Artillery Regiment's Honorary Regimental Colonel as authorized by the U.S. Army's Regimental System. For the first time in over a decade, the regiment appointed retired Col. Fred Bolton, who served more than 30 years as a field artillery officer, as their honorary colonel. Following the appointment, Bolton ceremoniously ordered roll call of the regiment's six battalions.

The Honorary Order of Saint Barbara recognizes those who have demonstrated the highest standards of integrity, moral character, professional competence and contributed to the promotion of field artillery. This year's six Virginia Army National Guard recipients of the Honorable Order of Saint Barbara Award were Sgt. 1st Class Christopher Bennett, 1st Sgt. John Trammell, Chief Warrant Officer 2 David Mummert, Capt. Michael Dwyer, Capt. Jonathan Ward, Capt. Travis Roth and Maj. Gen. John Epperly.

The Artillery Order of Molly Pitcher recognizes individuals who have voluntarily contributed in a significant way to the improvement of the field artillery community. This year the honor was bestowed to Mrs. Mary Shaver and Mrs. Latanya Fair.

The Ancient Order of Saint Barbara award was awarded to Maj. Gen. Timothy Williams, the Adjutant General of Virginia. This award is reserved for an elite few whose careers have embodied the spirit, dignity, commitment and sense of sacrifice epitomized by Saint Barbara.

Talmadge and Command Sgt. Maj. Stanley Mosley also presented this year's "1-111th Best Battery" streamer to Capt. Chris Epperson and 1st Sgt. Ricky Barley of Bravo Battery. The streamer is awarded to the unit which demonstrates excellence throughout the training year in areas such as weapons qualification, physical fitness, drill attendance, tactical proficiency, and overall operations.

In addition to the evening's awards were the host commander's remarks and state of the regiment update by Talmadge. Epperly, the commander of the 29th Infantry Division, was the guest speaker for the evening, and he focused his attention on the future



**The 2018 Virginia National Guard inductees of the Honorary Order of Saint Barbara are sworn in before being awarded the Saint Barbara medallion Dec. 8, 2018, in Williamsburg, Virginia.**

of the field artillery in the new and fast changing environments of today and tomorrow.

"The Saint Barbara's Day celebration shows that the 1st Battalion, 111th Field Artillery Regiment respects the traditions passed down from the artillerymen of the past," said Talmadge. "We are here to never forget the service and sacrifices of our forefathers while honoring the Regiment's past, present, and future members of the field artillery."

Read more: <http://vanguard.dodlive.mil/2018/12/11/12348/>

## MORE ON THE WEB

### Pre-Warrant Officer Candidate Course scheduled

<http://vanguard.dodlive.mil/2018/12/06/12326/>

### Photos: VNG Soldiers present program on flag protocol

<https://www.flickr.com/photos/vanguardpao/sets/72157676175215338>

### Photos: Gallagher promoted to brigadier general

<https://www.flickr.com/photos/vanguardpao/sets/72157676256668338>

### Photos: R&R Battalion welcomes new commander

<https://www.flickr.com/photos/vanguardpao/sets/72157703024139011>

### Photos: JFHQ-VA celebrates holiday season

<https://www.flickr.com/photos/vanguardpao/sets/72157702786710171>

 @VaNationalGuard

 @VaNationalGuard

 @VaNationalGuard